



Montana State Library Commission

Business Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Date: April 8, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Zoom

Recording Link: [2026, April 8 - Montana State Library Commission Meeting](#)

Attendance

- **Commission Members:** Robyn Scribner (Chair), Tamara Hall, Carmen Cuthbertson, Peggy Taylor, McKenna Gregg, Kris Goss, Tom Burnett.
- **Staff Present:** Jennie Stapp, Lesley Miller, Colet Bartow, Lee Fossum, Malissa Briggs, Ashley Kanduch, Corey Sloan, Mike Lighthiser, Sean Anderson, Cara Orban, Sharon Hardwick and Evan Hammer.
- **Guests:** Matt Sheehan (GIS specialist).

Call to Order and Introductions

Timestamp: 00:00:08

- **Chair Robyn Scribner** called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees, and opened the Montana State Library Commission business meeting. Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Agenda

Timestamp: 00:01:33

- Chair Scribner asked for changes or additions to the agenda.
- No changes or additions were offered.
- No public comment.

Recognition

Timestamp: 00:02:26

- The Commission recognized Mike Lighthiser for five years of service at the Montana State Library. Lee Fossum and Jennie Stapp offered remarks recognizing Mike's service, and Mike Lighthiser responded with thanks.
- Commissioner Kris Goss also recognized the Flathead Valley Community College Library for receiving the Association of College and Research Libraries National Award for the Community and Junior Colleges Library Section. Chair Scribner requested follow-up information so a letter of congratulations could be prepared.

Business Items

Consent Agenda

Timestamp: 00:05:59

- The consent agenda included February 11, 2026, meeting minutes.
- **Discussion:** Commissioner Tammy Hall requested that February 11, 2026, minutes be pulled because the minutes did not identify how individual commissioners voted on non-unanimous actions. Commissioner Carmen Cuthbertson also noted that one motion was missing its full text and should be added for consistency and historical clarity. Staff indicated that corrections could be brought back at a later meeting.
- **Action:** The consent agenda was not approved, and February 11, 2026, minutes were pulled for correction.
- No public comment.

Continuing Education Certification Policy - Action

Timestamp: 00:08:32

- **Motion:** To approve the draft Continuing Education Certification Policy.
- **Moved by:** Hall.
- **Second by:** Gregg.
- **Discussion:** After Chair Scribner introduced the draft Continuing Education Certification Policy, Burnett moved to defer action, leading to discussion about parliamentary procedure and the scope of the substitute motion. Commissioners and staff then discussed whether acceptance of MLIS/MLS degree credit should be reviewed more narrowly by the committee and whether delaying action would interfere with the July 1 implementation timeline.
- **Substitute Motion:** To defer action on the certification policy and return the matter for further review.
- **Substitute Motion moved by:** Burnett.
- **Substitute Motion seconded by:** Cuthbertson.
- **Amendment to substitute motion:** To clarify that the CE Committee would discuss MLIS degree credits one more time before the matter returned to the Commission.
- **Moved by:** Cuthbertson.
- **Second by:** Hall.
- **Vote on amendment:** Approved.

- **Vote on amended substitute motion:** Approved.

Roll Call Vote: 3 nays, 4 ayes.

Burnett – Aye

Cuthbertson – Aye

Goss – Nay

Gregg – Nay

Hall – Aye

Scribner – Aye

Taylor – Nay

- **Result:** Action on the draft Continuing Education Certification Policy was deferred and referred to the CE Committee for one more discussion of MLIS degree credits.
- **Public Comment:** None.

CE Subcommittee Follow-up and Scheduling Discussion

Timestamp: 00:33:22

- Commissioner Kris Goss offered to attend a future committee meeting to explain the academic rigor, accreditation process, and value of the MLIS degree.
- Chair Scribner noted that any such meeting would need to be publicly noticed if a quorum were present.
- State Librarian Stapp said a committee meeting could likely be held the following Monday or Tuesday, with the matter returning at the May 6 special meeting.

Draft Course of Study – Action

Timestamp: 00:36:00

- The Commission continued discussion of the Course of Study in connection with the deferred policy item.
- Action on the draft Course of Study was also delayed for further committee review so the related policy issues could be addressed together.

Certification Policy and Course of Study - Action

Timestamp: 00:46:55

- **Discussion:** The Commission then considered the draft Montana State Library Certification Course of Study. Discussion focused on whether the course of study should move forward independently after the certification policy had been deferred and whether adoption of the course of study without the policy would create implementation problems. Jennie Stapp advised that the course of study was tied to the July 1 timeline because it was referenced in the administrative rules.
- **Action:** Deferred without objection until the certification policy is placed.
- **Public Comment:** None.

Discussion Items:

Timestamp: 00:49:31

- Chair Scribner moved the meeting into the discussion items after deferring the course of study.
- Hall thanked Colet Bartow, Tracy, and staff for their work, saying they had been extremely helpful throughout the certification policy process.
- The Commission began reviewing the draft bylaws, including proposed language to create a standing certification committee.
- Cuthbertson said the proposed bylaws language was intended to make the certification committee a standing committee and to align its structure with other standing committees.
- Cuthbertson asked whether the bylaws should specifically identify staff participation on the certification committee or leave that flexible.
- Goss said it was better not to name specific staff positions in the bylaws because titles and roles can change, and that commissioner membership with staff support should be enough.
- Hall said she had a different view and suggested the bylaws should more clearly reflect staff involvement in the certification process.

Informational presentation**Timestamp: 01:19:12**

Discussion: Matt Sheehan gave an informational presentation on geospatial technology and artificial intelligence. The presentation described a shift from GIS as a passive system of record toward systems that support faster decision-making and more proactive use of geospatial data. The presenter also discussed the history of GIS and remote sensing, the role of maps in the geospatial field, and the broader evolution of the industry.

Draft Commission Bylaws Review**Timestamp: 01:30:00**

- Commissioners Cuthbertson and Goss presented draft revisions to the Commission Bylaws.
- Discussion included proposed changes to officer provisions, meeting procedures, and agenda order.
- Commissioners also discussed creation of a standing certification committee to review course submissions and conduct ongoing review of the Course of Study.

Procedure to Review Staff Job Descriptions**Timestamp: 01:38:00**

- State Librarian Stapp reviewed the process for updating staff job descriptions.
- She explained that job descriptions are revised only when duties materially change and that any classification questions are forwarded to the State Human Resources Division.
- In response to a commissioner question, Stapp said changes occur very infrequently and generally less than annually.

Objectivity and Libraries

Timestamp: 01:40:36

- Commissioners Cuthbertson and Goss gave a presentation on objectivity in libraries.
- Discussion addressed the role of libraries in providing access to a range of viewpoints and considerations related to neutrality, professional standards, and public service.

Standing Reports and Information Items

Timestamp: 02:04:00

- State Librarian Stapp and staff presented standing reports and information items.
- The Commission received the State Librarian's report and discussed the FY26 Work Plan Dashboard.
- Commissioners discussed work planning activities, project timing, and prioritization of staff capacity.
- The Commission also received third-quarter staffing information, including recruitment activity and the hire of Zachary Coe as Digital Content Specialist effective February 23, 2026.
- Staff reported there were no transfers or separations during the quarter.
- Additional packet items included third-quarter grants and contracts information, continuing education and certification dashboard materials, EIBC reports, the quarterly financial report, an updated Montana State Reference Network glide path, the House Bill 864 resource sharing study report, and commission correspondence.

Commission Goals and Objectives

Timestamp: 02:15:00

- The Commission reviewed motions and directives to staff to confirm Commission intent.
- Commissioners discussed the annual business calendar, logistics for Conversations with the Commission, prioritization of agenda items for the June business meeting, and status of 2026 Commission goals.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda

Timestamp: 02:25:20

- **Public Comment:** Julia Caruana of Three Forks provided public comment regarding sexually explicit graphic material that her minor daughter had checked out from a public library. Caruana stated that she had raised the matter with her local library board, questioned why similar content is restricted in other settings but not in library materials available to minors, and asked what action could be taken.
- **Discussion:** Kris Goss advised that because the matter was not on the agenda, the Commission could not engage in substantive discussion but could give a brief response, refer the matter to staff, or place the topic on a future agenda. Tamara Hall stated that she wanted the issue placed on a future agenda for discussion.

Adjournment

Timestamp: 02:47:54

- The meeting concluded at 2:47:54 p.m.